



By the King.

A Proclamation for quickning the Lawes made
for the reliefe of the poore, and the suppressing, punish-
ing, and setting of the sturdy Rogues, and Vagabonds.



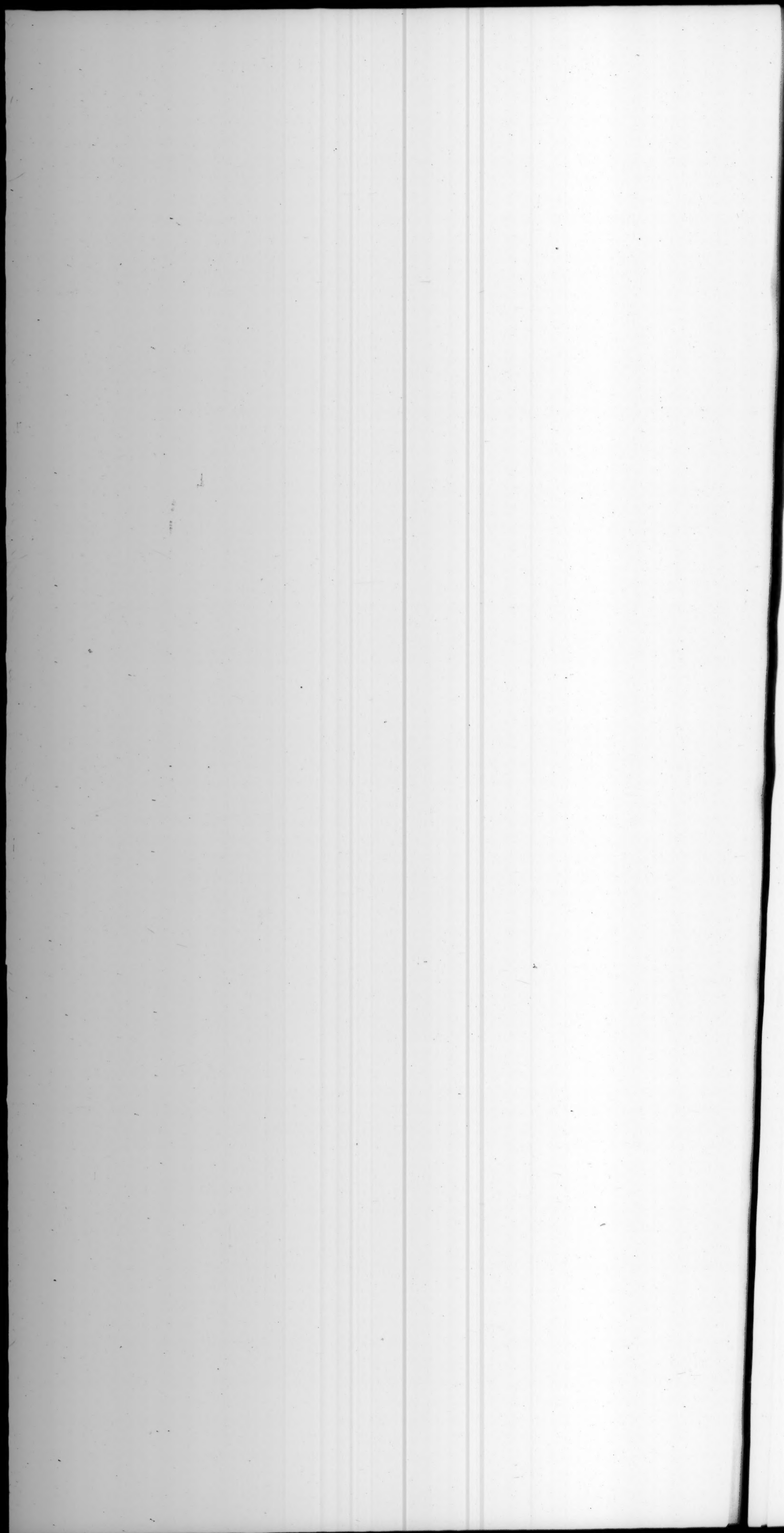
Hereas many excellent Lawes and Statutes with great iudgement and providence haue been made in the times of Our late deare and royall Father, and of the late Queene Elizabeth, for the reliefe of the impotent, and indigent poore, and for the punishing, suppressing, and setting of the sturdy Rogues, and Vagabonds, which Lawes and Statutes, if they were duely obserued would be of exceeding great vse for the peace and plentie of this Realme, but the neglect thereof is the occasion of much disorder, and many insufferable abuses. And whereas it is fit at all times, to put in execution those lawes which are of so necessarie, and so continuall vse: yet the apparant and visible danger of the Pestilence, (vntlesse the same by

Gods gracious mercie, and Our prouident endeouours be prevented) doth much more require the same at this present.

Wee haue therefore thought it fit, by the aduice of our Prīue Councell, by this Our publicke Proclamation, straightly to charge and command, that all our louing subiects in their seuerall places, doe vse all possible care and diligence as a principal meanes to prevent the spreading, and disperling of that contagious sicknesse, to obserue & put in due execution, all the said lawes made and provided against rogues, and vagabonds, and for the reliefe of the truely poore and impotent people. And in the first place, we strictly charge and command, that in Our Cities of London, and Westminster, and Suburbs thereof, and places adiacent thereunto, and generally throughout the whole Kingdome, that there be carefull watch, and ward, kept for the apprehending and punishing of al rogues and vagabonds, who either in the streets or highwayes, vnder the names of souldiers, or Mariners, Glasse-men, Pot-men, Pedlars, or Petty-Chapmen, or of poore or impotent people, shall be found either wandring, or begging.

And we doe further strictly charge and command, that all Constables head-boroughs, and other Officers, doe vse all diligence, to punish, & passe away according to the law, all such wanderers, or beggars, as shall be apprehended, either in the Cities, or places aforesaid, or in any other Cities, Townes, Parishes, or places within this Realme, and take great care that none passe vnder the colour of counterfeit passes. And that all Irish rogues, and vagabonds be forthwith apprehended, wheresoeuer they shall be found and punished, and sent home according to a former Proclamation, heretofore published in that behalfe. That all House-holders of whole persons, or at whole houses, any such vagrants shalbe taken begging, doe apprehend, or cause them to be apprehended, & caried to the next Constable, or other officer to be punished, according to the Lawes. And that they forbear to relieue them, thereby to giue them encouragement to continue in their wicked course of life.

That the Iustices of Peace in their seuerall places throughout this Kingdome be carefull either by Prouost Marshals, or by the high Constables, or otherwise by their good discretions effectually to provide, that all rogues and vagabonds of all sorts be searched for, apprehended



punished and suppressed according to the Law. And that once every moneth at the least, a convenient number of the Justices of Peace in every severall Countie and Division, shall meete together in some convenient place in that Division, and take account of the High Constables, petty Constables, and other Officers within that Division, how they have observed the Lawes and Our commandement touching the Premisses.

And that they severely punish all such as shall be found remisse or negligent in that behalfe. And we doe hereby strictly charge and command as well all and singular Justices of Peace, Constables, Headboroughs, and other Our Officers and Ministers, as also all Our loving Subjects of what estate or degree soever to use all diligence, that all and every houses or places which are or shall be visited or infected with the sicknesse, bee carefully shut up, and watch and ward kept over them that no person or persons within those places doe goe abroad, or depart from thence, during the time of such Visitation. And we doe hereby command all and singular our Judges of Assize in their severall Circuits to give speciall charge, and make speciall inquiry of the defaults of all and every the Justices of Peace who shall not observe their meetings in the severall Counties and Divisions aforesaid, or shall not punish such Constables or other Officers as being informed either by their owne view and knowledge or otherwise are or shall be found remisse or negligent in the Premisses, or in leavynge such penalties and forfeitures as the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme require against the parties offending herein. And thereof to informe Us or Our Privy Councell, to the end that such due course may be taken either by removing out of the Commission such negligent Justices of the Peace, or otherwise by inflicting such punishment vpon them as shall bee due to such as neglect their owne duties, and Our Royall command published vpon so important an occasion.

And we doe hereby will require and command all and every our Judges of Assize, Maiors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Constables, Headboroughs and other Our Officers, Ministers and Subjects whom it may concerne, that they carefully and effectually observe and performe all and every the Premisses, as they will answer the neglect thereof at their uttermost perils.

And whereas we haue lately commanded a Booke to be printed and published containing certaine Statutes made and enacted heretofore for the reliefe of the Poore, and of Souldiers and Mariners, and for punishment of Rogues and Vagabonds, and for the reliefe and ordering of persons infected with the Plague, and also containing certaine Orders heretofore, and now lately conceived and made concerning health: All which are necessarie to be knownen and observed by Our loving Subjects that thereby they may the better avoid those dangers which otherwise may fall vpon their persons or estates by their neglect thereof. wee haue thought it fit hereby to give notice thereof to all Our loving Subjects, to the end that none may pretend ignorance for an excuse, in matters of so great importance. And wee doe hereby declare, that whosoever shall be found remisse or negligent in the execution of any part of the Premisses, shall receive such condigne punishment for their offence, as by the Lawes of this Realme, or by Our prerogative Royall can or may be iustly inflicted vpon them.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the three and twentieth day of April, in the sixt yeere of Our Reigne of England, Scotland, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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